Proposal to Amend the Conflict of Interest Regulations—Real Property Materiality

Staff of the Fair Political Practices Commission will be holding an interested persons’ meeting relating to amending the Political Reform Act’s (the “Act”) conflict of interest regulations. (See Regulations 18700, 18703.2, and 18704.2). Staff is seeking public input concerning what constitutes a “material financial affect” with regard to a discussion affecting a public official’s interest in real property in advance of filing a notice of adoption with the Office of Administrative Law for the Commission’s April 17, 2014 Commission Meeting.

In a continuing effort to clarify and simplify regulations pertaining to the implementation of the Act, staff has drafted proposed changes to the conflict of interest rules. Staff has identified several proposed areas for suggested amendments, including: the 500 foot/one penny/direct involved rule for real property as well as developing standards to be used to determine materiality where the real property interest is more than 500 feet from the property that is the subject of the decision. Staff will also suggest proposed changes where the decision involved improvements to public infrastructure and eliminate the dual analysis for business entity real property when it is separately analyzed under the business entity materiality standards. Additionally, staff seeks input from interested persons and is soliciting suggestions for improvement to all aspects of the conflict of interest regulations under the Act.

For that purpose, staff is holding an interested persons meeting to solicit both specific and general input and suggestions for the improvement of the conflict of interest regulations. The proposed language will be posted on the Commission’s website prior to the meeting and will be considered by the Commission for adoption at the April 17, 2014 meeting.

- You may participate in this interested persons meeting in person (at the Commission’s offices).

- You may participate in this interested persons meeting remotely through gotowebinar.com. To participate remotely, please register for Interested Persons Meeting - Proposal to Amend the Conflict of Interest Regulations-Real Property Materiality on Feb 25, 2014 2:00 PM PST at:

  https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/683868001745284353
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- You may also listen to this interested persons meeting by teleconference by calling (888) 751-0624; access code 723284.

- Finally, the Commission also invites written comments addressing these topics. You may also contact Senior Commission Counsel Bill Lenkeit at (916) 322-5660 with comments on these issues or questions about the meeting.

For questions about this meeting, you may contact Virginia Latteri-Lopez at (916) 322-5660.